

**SUPREME COURT
OF ILLINOIS**

**CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL
RECORDS**

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**FIVE-YEAR TRENDS AND
DATA**

SUPREME COURT CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL RECORDS

CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

A summary of case filings and dispositions in the Supreme Court of Illinois for the period 1998 through 2002 is presented in Table 1.

During 2002, filings in the supreme court totaled 3,310 an increase of 5 percent or 165 more cases than the 3,145 cases filed in 2001. The supreme court disposed of a total of 3,320 cases in 2002, an increase of 614 cases from 2001 dispositions. The increase in dispositions may be substantially attributed to decisions made on certain petitions for leave to appeal that had been held for resolution of various issues under the court's advisement and to dismissals of a significant number of cases filed on notices of appeal from orders of the circuit court declaring unconstitutional, all or part of, Public Act 91-404 (sentencing enhancements for crimes committed with firearms).

In 2002 there were 2,474 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, an increase of 210 cases, or 8.5 percent, from 2001 filings. While there was a decrease in the overall number of notices of appeal filed, 375 more petitions for leave to appeal were filed in 2002 than filed in 2001.

A total of 638 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2002, a 23-case increase over 2001. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters, including name-change petitions, disciplinary cases, and bar admission motions. In 2002, approximately 379 name-change petitions and 34 motions for restoration to active status under Rule 759 were filed. Disciplinary matters account for 142 cases, and the remaining 83 cases consist of bar admission motions, rule amendment petitions, petitions concerning professional service corporations or limited liability companies under Rule 721, and certain other administrative matters.

In 2002, 198 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, a 68-case decrease from 2001. This docket consists of conviction-related cases filed by *pro se* prisoners. Typically, a matter is placed on the miscellaneous docket, as opposed to the general docket, when papers do not conform to the rules in one or more respects. This docket provides a forum for the incarcerated *pro se* litigant without compromising standard filing requirements.

Petitions for Leave to Appeal

In 2002, 2,256 petitions were filed, an increase of 375 cases from the 2001 filings on the leave to appeal docket, as represented in Table 2. The supreme court allowed 86 petitions, a 12-case decrease from 2001, or 4.2 percent of the petitions acted upon.

As in the prior four years, more petitions were filed in people cases than in civil cases. In 2002, the same number of petitions were allowed in each category - 43.

Mandatory Appeals

As seen in Table 3, total capital case filings (imposition of death penalty and post-conviction) increased by 2 cases in 2002 when 9 direct appeals from the imposition of the death sentence and 6 capital post-conviction appeals, which also are appealed straight to the supreme court, were filed. During the five-year period, direct appeal filings ranged from 7 to 11 cases annually and post-conviction appeals ranged from 6 to 26 cases annually.

The year 2002 saw 77 direct appeals from the circuit court under Rules 302(a) and 603 in cases in which a statute has been held invalid, a 115-case decrease from 2001, when approximately 174 cases were filed on notices declaring unconstitutional, all or part of, Public Act 91-404 (sentencing enhancements for crimes committed with firearms). The 2002 figure in the people category includes approximately 66 such cases.

No certificates of importance from the appellate court were filed in 2002.

Other Activity

In 2002, the supreme court filed 122 full opinions, disposing of 131 cases; 11 more opinions than filed in 2001. (Table 6).

The court ruled on 43 petitions for rehearing in decided cases, allowing one (1), (Table 7); entertained oral argument in 108 cases and accepted one case for submission as a non-oral (Table 5); and considered over 1, 969 motions on the general docket, including 92 original action motions under Rules 381 and 383 (Table 1).

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2002 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the court disciplined 126 attorneys by order and one (1) attorney by opinion and suspended 15 attorneys on an interim basis by order. No petitions for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767 were considered by the court in 2002.

In 2002, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the supreme court rules committee forwarded to the clerk of the court 10 matters to be placed upon the proposed rule docket, which spreads of record rule proposals and amendments being considered by the supreme court or its committees. Seven matters on the proposed rule docket were closed. In 2002, the court amended 26 Supreme Court Rules¹ and adopted one

¹Amended Rules 39, 40, 64, 66, 90, 191, 201, 212, 213 (including amended interrogatories under 213(j)), 218 (amended 5/02 and 10/02), 219, 222, 306, 307 (amendment subsequently vacated 12/31/02), 501, 503, 526, 527, 530, 551, 552, 555, 607, 705, 751, 756.

(1) Supreme Court Rule², including rules pertaining to the establishment of a marriage fund, expert witnesses, general discovery procedures, judges engaging in law-related activities, funding of Lawyers' Assistance Program and Lawyers Trust Fund using a portion of attorneys' annual registration fees, admission of attorneys based on reciprocity, and admission of graduates of foreign law schools.

The supreme court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 2,553 attorneys in 2002, a decrease of 77 from the 2,630 licenses awarded in 2001. During the past five years, 12,894 lawyers were licensed, an average of 2,578 per year, which is a decrease of 19 from the five-year average reported in 2001.

In 2002, the court inaugurated the Capital Litigation Trial Bar Rosters consistent with Supreme Court Rule 714 and the order of January 23, 2002 (M.R. 17985). As of December 31, 2002, 533 attorneys were certified as members of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, 429 as lead counsel and 104 as co-counsel.

²Adopted new Rule 715.

Table 1
Summary of Case Filings and Final Dispositions
Supreme Court of Illinois
1998 - 2002

Filings	Grand Total	Total General Docket	Direct Appeals by Right (a)	Certificates of Importance (b)	Direct Appeal by Permission (c)	Petitions for Leave to Appeal (d)	Original Action Motions (e)	Attorney Disc. Cases on General Docket	Other General Docket (f)	Total Misc. Record (g)	Total Misc. Docket (h)
1998	3568(i)	2144(i)	176(i)	0	6	1831	109	1	21	1082	342
1999	3231	1948	42	0	5	1770	93	5	33	984	299
2000	3122	1938	45	0	6	1775	88	0	24	832	352
2001	3145(j)	2264(j)	205(j)	0	7	1881	134	1	36	615	266
2002	3310	2474	92	0	10	2256	92	1	23	638	198
Dispo- sitions											
1998	3427	2045	81	3	6	1750	113	0	92	1076	306
1999	3524(i)	2157(i)	224(i)	0	5	1741	99	3	85	1031	336
2000	3252	2027	68	0	6	1772	82	5	94	870	355
2001	2706	1848	45	0	7	1559	131	0	106	610	248
2002	3320	2458(j)	173(j)	0	9	2069	98	2	107	649	213

(a) Appeals directly from the circuit court: Capital cases (Ill. Const. 1970, art. VI, § 4; Rule 603 appeals from imposition of death sentence and appeals in post-conviction proceedings under Rule 651) and statutes held invalid (Rules 302(a) and 603). (b) Certification of case by Appellate Court under Rule 316. (c) Rule 302(b) motions. (d) Dispositions do not include petitions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (e) Motions filed under Rule 381 (mandamus, prohibition, habeas corpus), Rule 382 (legislative redistricting), Rule 383 (supervisory authority). (f) Other dispositions include final disposition of cases in which discretionary review was granted in prior year(s). (g) The Miscellaneous Record consists primarily of attorney matters, including disciplinary cases, motions for restoration to active status (Rule 759), petitions to change name on roll of attorneys, and bar admission motions. Effective November 1, 1999, Rule 770 (voluntary transfer to inactive status) rescinded. (h) Cases are filed on the Miscellaneous Docket when papers tendered by pro se prisoners do not conform to Supreme Court Rules. (i) The 1998 figure includes approximately 120 cases filed on notices of appeal from orders of the circuit court declaring unconstitutional the statutory scheme of the Illinois Vehicle Code for summary suspension of driving privileges. In 1999, in view of People v. Fisher, 184 Ill. 2d 441 (1998), upholding summary suspension, approximately 184 cases were dismissed. (j) The 2001 figure includes approximately 174 cases filed on notices of appeal from orders of the circuit court declaring unconstitutional, all or part of, Public Act 91-404 (sentencing enhancements for crimes committed with firearms). In 2002, approximately 145 were dismissed.

Table 2
Summary of Petitions for Leave to Appeal and/or Appeal as a Matter of Right
Under Rules 315/317 - General Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1998 - 2002

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed	(People)	(Civil)	Denied or Dismissed (a)	Total Disposed	Percent Allowed (b)
1998	1831	(1129)	(702)	83	(29)	(54)	1717	1750	4.7%
1999	1770	(1106)	(664)	92	(34)	(58)	1639	1741	5.3%
2000	1775	(1082)	(693)	92	(42)	(50)	1694	1772	5.2%
2001	1881	(1196)	(685)	98	(42)	(56)	1491	1559	6.2%
2002	2256	(1594)	(662)	86	(43)	(43)	1937	2069	4.2%

(a) Does not include petitions denied with supervisory orders. These are reflected in "total disposed".

(b) Relationship between petitions allowed and all petitions disposed, i.e., denied, dismissed, allowed.

Table 3
Mandatory Jurisdiction Appeals - General Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1998 - 2002

	Total Filed	Capital		Statute Invalid		Certificate of Importance		Total Dis- posed	Capital		Statute Invalid		Certificate of Importance	
		Imposition of death sentence	Post- Con- viction	People	Civil	People	Civil		Imposi- tion of death sentence	Post- Conviction	People	Civil	People	Civil
1998	176	11	26	134	5	0	0	84	21	11	14	35	1	2
1999	42	11	15	13	3	0	0	224	7	14	193	10	0	0
2000	45	9	14	6	16	0	0	68	18	30	15	5	0	0
2001	205	7	6	188	4	0	0	45	7	15	12	11	0	0
2002	92	9	6	72	5	0	0	173	6	17	145	5	0	0

Table 4
General Docket
People and Civil Cases
Supreme Court of Illinois
1998 - 2002

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Disposed	(People)	(Civil)
1998	2144	1334	810	2045	1123	922
1999	1948	1168	780	2157	1404	753
2000	1938	1134	804	2027	1222	805
2001	2264	1426	838	1848	1038	810
2002	2474	1715	759	2458	1690	768

Table 5
Summary of the Call of the Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1998 - 2002

	Cases Submitted	(People)	(Civil)
1998	118(a)	(67)	(51)
1999	118	(69)	(49)
2000	114(b)	(70)	(44)
2001	149(c)	(67)	(82)
2002	109(d)	(66)	(43)

Cases submitted on briefs without oral argument: (a) 4; (b) 2; (c) 10, including 8 legislative redistricting cases; (d) 1.

Table 6
Summary of Opinions
Supreme Court of Illinois
1998 - 2002

	Total Filed (a)	(People)	(Civil)	Disposing of Cases on the Merits
1998	133	(64)	(69)	158
1999	91(b)	(49)	(42)	104(b)
2000	127(c)	(84)	(43)	144(c)
2001	111	(59)	(52)	130
2002	122	(71)	(51)	131

(a) Full opinions; category does not include dissenting or concurring opinions.

(b) Does not include 1 case dismissed by Per Curiam order.

(c) Does not include 1 consolidated case dismissed by order.

Table 7
Summary of Rehearings
Supreme Court of Illinois
1998 - 2002

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed (a)	(People)	(Civil)
1998	47	(23)	(24)	0	(0)	(0)
1999	42	(23)	(19)	0	(0)	(0)
2000	51	(36)	(15)	2	(1)	(1)
2001	51	(30)	(21)	6	(2)	(4)
2002	43	(25)	(18)	1	(1)	(0)

(a) Petitions not allowed are denied or, occasionally, dismissed or withdrawn on motion.

Table 8

Attorney Disciplinary Cases
Supreme Court of Illinois
 (Calendar Year 2002)

Discipline Imposed by Order	Dispositions
Rule 753 proceedings on recommendation of Hearing or Review Boards of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission	52
Rule 762(a) Voluntary disbarment	13
Rule 762(b) Discipline on consent	43
Rule 763 Reciprocal discipline	18
Total	126

Discipline by Opinion	1
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Interim Suspension orders	
Rule 761	4
Rule 774	11
Total	15

Reinstatement to Roll of Attorneys	
Petition Allowed 0	0
Petition Denied 0	

Total Dispositions	142
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Reinstatement Petitions	Reprimand	Censure	Interim Suspension	Probationary Suspension	Suspension	Disbarment	Total Dispositions
0	1	16	15	18	61	31	142

Figure 1

Filings

1998-2002

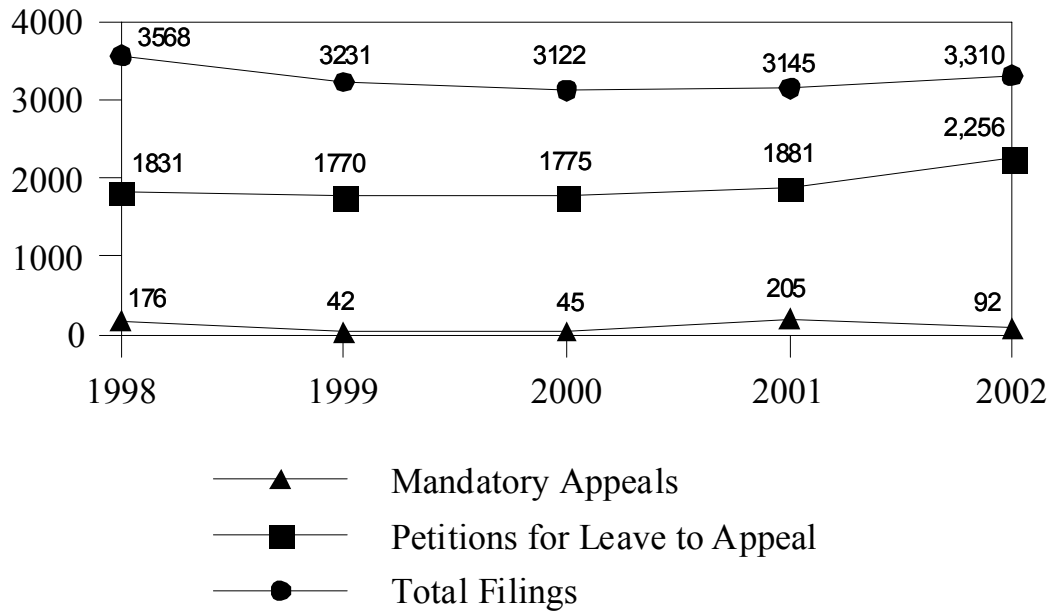


Figure 2

Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed as a Percent of Appeals Decided by Appellate Court Opinion or Rule 23 Order

1998-2002

